



OZARK EMPIRE, BRANCH – 316, INC.



# FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

*Representing Enlisted Personnel of the  
U.S. NAVY \* U.S. MARINE CORPS \* U.S. COAST GUARD*

4028 S. Kentwood Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65804 \* (417) 861-9926

## NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

IN CASE OF ILLNESS OR DEATH OF ANY SHIPMATE  
PLEASE NOTIFY THE BRANCH CHAPLAIN OR  
SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

### BRANCH OFFICERS

President:	Robert Turner	307 Southview St., Willard, MO 65781	(417)838-4991
Vice Pres	Virginia Swayne	3660 S. Cox Ave. Apt 3202, Springfield, MO 65807	(417)880-7872
Secretary:	Chuck Ewy	4028 S. Kentwood Ave., Springfield, MO 65804	(417)861-9926
Treasurer	Frank Parker	847 S Jonathan Ave. Springfield, MO 65802	(417)838-7698
Chaplain:	Don Brunk	2478 W. Nottingham St., Springfield, MO 65810	(417)840-4717

### BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JrPP:	Tom Newsom	3215 W. Wick St., Springfield, MO 65810	(417)569-9871
Bd. Of Dir.	Teri Jeske	RR 4, Box 436, Ava, MO 65608-9370	(417)413-8606
Bd. Of Dir.	Jim Grier	714 S. Stratford Dr., Springfield, MO 65809	(417)350-3888
Bd. Of Dir.	Nolan Moody	4334 W. La Siesta St., Springfield, MO 65802	(417)894-0083
Bd. Of Dir.	Norma Wright	2975 W. Village Terr., Springfield, MO 65810	(417)830-0682
Bd. Of Dir	Bernie Daum	264 Meadowview Rd., Galena, MO 65656	(757)620-2113

### EVENTS NOV 2024

- Nov 3 – Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov 2 – Willard Vets Parade
- Nov 5 – Election Day (VOTE)
- Nov 9 – Springfield Vets Parade
- Nov 10 – Marine Corps B-Day (1775)
- Nov 11 – Veterans Day
- Nov 11 – FRA's 100<sup>th</sup> B-Day (1924)
- Nov 12-15 – National Convention
- Nov 21 – Branch Meeting
- Nov 28 – Thanksgiving Day



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec – No Meeting
- Jan 23 – Branch Meeting
- Feb 27 – Branch Meeting
- Mar 27 – Branch Meeting
- A/pr 24 – Branch Meeting
- May 22 – Branch Meeting

**YOU ARE WANTED  
AND WELCOME  
SHIPMATES  
AT BRANCH 316'S  
MEETINGS**

### NEXT MEETING:

3<sup>RD</sup> Thur. November 21, 2024  
(1700) Thanksgiving Dinner  
American Legion Post 639  
2660 S Scenic Ave.  
Springfield, MO. 65807



## BRANCH 316'S WEB PAGE ([frabr316.org](http://frabr316.org))

**NEXT MEETING:** Our next meeting will be Thursday, NOVEMBER 21, 2024, and will commence at 1800. We will meet at American Legion Post 639, 2660 S. Scenic, Springfield, MO, 65807. The meal will be a pot luck provided by the members at 1700. Michelle Gallion – Dessert, Don Brunk – Turkey, Bernie Daum – Pie, Virginia Swayne – Mashed Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes, Chuck Ewy – Green Bean Casserole, Shirley Strantz – Cranberry Sauce, and Robert Turner – Cake.

**LAST MEETING:** S/M President Robert Turner called Branch 316's meeting to order at 1800 IAW Article 12 Sec 1214 National C&BL. Members in attendance were: Chuck Ewy, Don Brunk, Frank Parker, Bernie Daum, Shirley Strantz, Dennis Strantz, Belinda Brown, Virginia Swayne, Jim Grier, Pat Bryan, Robert Turner, and Michelle Gallion. S/M Chaplain opened the Bible and gave the opening prayer. All Shipmates repeated the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag and the "Preamble to the Constitution of the FRA". A motion was made by S/M Don Brunk to dispense with reading the minutes of last meeting, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024, and approve as they were published verbatim in the OCTOBER 2024 Newsletter. Motion seconded by S/M Virginia Swayne and passed.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM** – It was reported:

- No Report

**HOSPITAL** – S/M Don Brunk reported:

- S/M Dennis Sutherland was back in the hospital. Family would appreciate prayers.
- Ed Fox, who was 101 years old, has passed away.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

- **AUGUST'S REPORT** - 3 New members, 0 Transfer-Out, 0 Transfer-In, 0 Reinstated, 1 Deletions, 2 Suspensions, 2 Members past due, 113 Total active members, 2 Members past due, 111 Members in good standing.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** –

- No Report

**VETERANS SERVICE** – S/M Belinda Brown reported:

- No Report

**YOUTH** – S/M Sheldon Pryke reported:

- No Report

**COMMUNICATIONS** - S/M Secretary Chuck Ewy reported:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Membership Report. Branch 316 is second in Group IV at both the NCR and National level.
- C&BL Resolution # 15 – Branch 316 voted in favor of the change.

**TREASURERS REPORT** –

- S/M Frank Parker gave the report. All bills paid. S/M Belinda Brown made a motion to accept the Treasurers report. Seconded by S/M Don Brunk and passed. Meal was \$99.01. Donations was \$50.00.

**UNFINISHED AND DEFERRED:**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Nov 2 – Willard Veterans Day Parade. Volunteers – Frank Parker, Don Brunk, Virginia Swayne, Belinda Brown, Robert Turner, and Chuck Ewy. Assemble at Willard HS at 9:30 a.m. Parade starts at 11:00.
- Nov 9 – Springfield Veterans Day Parade. Volunteers – Virginia Swayne, Don Brunk, Robert Turner, and Belinda Brown. Line up at 9:30 a.m. on East Trafficway and Parade starts at 11:00 a.m.
- Reminder that the PCCC dinner on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1100 at the Club House – Confirmed – Frank Parker, Robert Turner, Chuck Ewy, Don Brunk, Teri Jeske, Lon Jeske, and Virginia Swayne.
- S/M Virginia Swayne made a motion to change our November meeting to Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, seconded by S/M Don Brunk and motion passed.
- S/M Secretary made a motion to cancel the December meeting, seconded by S/M Don Brunk, motion passed.
- S/M Belinda Brown made a motion that our meeting meals be payed for, by Branch 316, seconded by S/M Jim Grier and motion passed.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

- S/M President presented Past Officer pin to S/M PVP Bernie Daum and S/M MAA Jim Grier.
- The assembly was address by new members S/M's Shirley Strantz and S/M Dennis Strantz.

Motion by S/M Pat Bryan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by S/M Don Brunk and passed.

Chaplain did the closing Prayer and closed the Bible.

Meeting Adjourned 1850

Next meeting will be November 21, 2024 at 1800.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

FRA 2024 National Convention will be held in Annapolis, MD., 12-16 November 2024. This will be our Centennial Convention celebrating FRA's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

FRA 2025 National Constitutional Convention, hosted by Branch/Unit 161 and Branch/Unit 032. More information to be forthcoming.

SHIPMATES OF BRANCH 316: The 2025 Mid-Year Conference, will be held, April 26 – 29 in Bloomington, Minnesota, and will be hosted by Viking Branch 136. More information will be forth coming.

NEW MEMBERS: Welcome S/M's – Grant Dorrell, Brandon Graff, Thomas Griffith, and Marvin Tulla.

MEMBERS WHO ARE PAST DUE: Patrick Cashin and Adam Miller.

MEMBERS WHO ARE READY TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP AS OF OCT 31, 2024: Anthony Bentley, Michael Kimball, Richard Seiferd, and Christina Smith.

MEMBERS WHO ARE READY TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP AS OF NOV 30, 2024: Holly Anthony, Terri Budzyna, Patrick Buzzard, Joseph Hopkins, Pamela Warner-Dawes and Don Weiss.

Shipmates we need you to renew your membership. If you need any assistance. Please notify Secretary Ewy at 417-861- 9926. (If no answer please leave a message) or e-mail me at [cmewy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmewy@sbcglobal.net) Please contact me if you have sent in your dues and are still in arrears, so I can get it corrected.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ARE TERMINATED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES: Billie Jo Christy and Johnny Christy.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBER HAS REPORTED TO THE STAFF OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER: None  
SHIPMATES IN GOOD STANDING, WITH 50 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP NO LONGER HAVE TO PAY DUES:

VISITATION: Shipmates, if you are sick or confined to bed, please let us know so one of the following S/M can come and visit you. Contact: S/M Chaplain – Don Brunk (417-840-4717), S/M Secretary – Chuck Ewy (417-861-9926) or S/M President – Robert Turner (417-838-4991).

NOVEMBER 2024 CONTINUOUS MEMBERS: We want to congratulate the following members of Branch 316 for their continuous membership in the FRA.

Holly Anthony	01 Yr	Don Brunk	48 Yrs.	Terri Budzyna	01 Yr.
Patrick Buzzard	22 Yrs.	Charles Cline	48 Yrs.	Joe Hopkins	03 Yrs.
Edward Jones	43 Yrs.	Pamela War-Dawes	36 Yrs.	Don Weiss	03 Yrs.

WE WISH EACH SHIPMATE, WHO HAS A BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER, A HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Patrick Buzzard	64 Yrs.	James Hawthorne	76 Yrs.	Sheldon Pryke	44 Yrs.
Jimmie Shehi	96 Yrs.	Wallace Watson	77 Yrs.	Brandon Graff	45 Yrs.
Dennis Strantz	76 Yrs.				

If any of these are incorrect, please notify Branch Secretary.

*Chuck Ewy,*

Secretary, Branch 316



S/M President Presenting Past Officer Pin to  
S/M Past Branch Vice President Bernie Daum

S/M President Presenting Past Officer Pin to  
S/M MAA Jim Grier

### **Veteran Affairs Life Insurance (VA Life)**

On Jan. 1, 2023, the VA launched a new life insurance program called Veteran Affairs Life Insurance (VA Life). This new program will provide guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage to vets age 80 and younger with any level of service connected disability.

**With the launch of VA Life, like many vets you may be wondering...**

**Is this the best life insurance option for me?**

**How does the program work?**

**What are the benefits of the program?**

**How much will the coverage cost?**

**Will I have to go through a medical exam or answer medical questions?**

**Am I eligible if I have pre-existing conditions?**

If you're a vet and wondering if VA Life is right for you, read on as I'm going to answer the above questions and give you the full scoop on the program...

VA Life is a Guaranteed Acceptance program. This type of program provides a whole life insurance policy that DOES NOT require a medical exam or ask any health questions... Therefore, if you have any pre-existing conditions that might have left you unable to qualify for other options in the past, you don't need to worry as you'll be able to qualify for coverage with VA Life. And since, it's whole life insurance, the policy will provide coverage for the entire life of the policy holder (as long as premium payments are made.) You don't ever have to worry about out-living the coverage as is the case with a term policy.

The rates for VA Life are locked for life and never increase so you also don't ever have to worry about your premiums increasing as you get older. Coverage options for VA Life will be offered in increments of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$40,000 in coverage. Premiums will vary depending on age and in some cases are more competitive than what is available in the private sector.

Because VA Life is Guaranteed Acceptance and DOES NOT have any medical requirements (You do not need to have a medical exam or answer any health questions), the policy will have a 2 year waiting period before the full face amount of the coverage goes into effect. If death were to occur in the initial 2 years of the policy, the benefit paid to your beneficiary would be all the premiums paid into the policy plus 10%.

VA Life also offers a fully automated online enrollment that provides instant approval.

Is VA Life the best option for you? While it's an excellent option for individuals who can only qualify for a policy that requires a 2 year waiting period due to health issues, it might not be the best option for folks who are healthy enough to qualify for immediate, day 1 coverage (no waiting period)... Many private carriers offer lower rates for individuals who are healthy enough to qualify for immediate coverage so, to help you determine if VA Life is the best option for you, we've put together a 60 sec quiz that will let you know. Click the link below, answer the quiz questions and you'll be able to find out if VA Life is right for you... And, as a bonus, once you complete the quiz we'll also provide you a complete breakdown of rates so you know what you can expect to pay for coverage based on your situation!

Click Below, take the quiz and find out if VA Life is right for you in the next 60 seconds!

<https://go.lifeinsuranceforvets.com/quote-john>



**Give Vets Hope**



**Help and Hope for Veterans**

## **NOVEMBER ARTICLE FOR "Give Vets Hope"**

Since last month we have had a number of veterans and their support systems show up and join or not join our group. We don't judge them. Judgment is not what we feel qualified to do. "Treat others the way you want to be treated" is something we practice.

We had pulled-pork, generously supplied by one of our members. There is the promise of chili with cornbread at our next meeting. We have sandwiches promised on the near-horizon! For dessert we have had donuts, upside down cake and Halloween candy, on separate occasions though.

As you can tell food plays an important role in our group. We always have plenty of food and fellowship among our veterans and group support members.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 5:30 at the VFW Post 3404, 1136 E. Atlantic, and are usually done at about 7:00. Veterans and their support systems are welcome! You may visit our Facebook page at: [givevetshope/Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/givevetshope/) and if you want, you may explore our website at [github.com](https://github.com).

**David Suits-Give Vets Hope co-facilitator**

**[davidsuits25@gmail.com](mailto:davidsuits25@gmail.com)/417-773-1837 (please leave a message)**



**Ozark Empire Branch 316 Participating in the Willard, MO Veteran Day Parade. Participants Robert Turner – Pres, Virginia Swayne – Vice Pres, Chuck Ewy – Secretary, Frank Parker – Treasurer, Don Brunk – Chaplain Belinda Brown – Member**







## **November 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting Thanksgiving Dinner (POT LUCK)**

**Michelle Gallion – Dessert,**

**Don Brunk – Turkey,**

**Bernie Daum – Pie,**

**Virginia Swayne – Mashed Potatoes / Sweet Potatoes,**

**Chuck Ewy – Green Bean Casserole,**

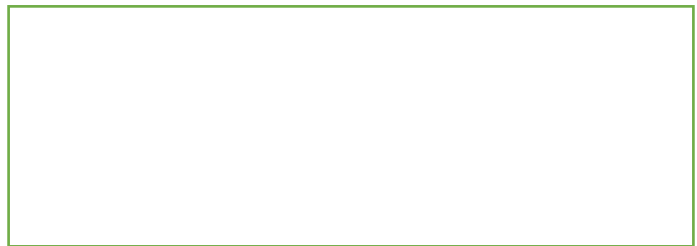
**Shirley Strantz – Cranberry Sauce**

**Robert Turner – Cake.**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME**

**OZARK EMPIRE FLEET RESERVE**  
4028 S. KENTWOOD AVE.  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65804-6517

**"RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED"**



**Marine Corps War Memorial, Washington DC**